

3202



Dear Mr. Smolock:

On behalf of SEIU State Council and its 80,000 hard working members, I wish to express our overwhelming support of the proposed regulatory changes on overtime eligibility by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). As an organization whose mission is to secure dignity, safety and fair wages for working Pennsylvanians, we believe that it is well past time that the commonwealth update overtime rules which have not changed in more than four decades. These outdated policies have contributed to the commonwealth's rising income inequality and the continued erosion of Pennsylvania's middle class.

According to the Keystone Research Center, it is estimated that the overtime regulatory changes proposed by DLI has the potential to benefit roughly half a million Pennsylvania workers. This would provide immediate relief to many Pennsylvanians in the workforce that not only have to contend with outdated overtime rules, but also a static state minimum wage. DLI's proposed regulatory changes will improve the quality of life for many Pennsylvanians who work not with the aim of becoming rich, but to simply be able to care for their families and loved ones.

Increasing the salary threshold is just as equally important as updating regulations for how workers are classified in Pennsylvania. With the proposed rule in place, employers will no longer be able to misclassify workers to keep their wages artificially low. The supporters of this regulatory change represent a majority of working-class Pennsylvanians who have not seen relief in forty years. We applaud the Wolf administration for taking this important step, and urge the Department of Labor to act as quickly as possible in extending these protections to working Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Gabe Morgan, Council President
PA Director of SEIU 32BJ

Matt Yarnell, Council Secretary-
Treasurer
President of SEIU Healthcare PA

Steve Catanese
President of SEIU Local 668

David Melman
Manager of PA Joint Board,
Workers United

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION

PENNSYLVANIA
STATE COUNCIL

1500 N. Second Street
Suite 11
Harrisburg, PA 17102
717.232.1270
Fax 717.232.3007

